

its snout over it, but made no attempt to strike. Then taking hold of the mouse by the neck, it spent some time in positioning it so as to swallow it head-first. Swallowing took a while, but after passing the snake's throat the mouse moved quickly down the gullet. The snake seemed to flatten its body behind the bulging mouse when forcing it along its gullet. It then crawled under a stone and remained out of sight.

Next day a third mouse was thrown in and fell about three feet in front of the snake, which after a moment's hesitation went straight to the mouse as if it had seen it. After swallowing the mouse the snake resumed its prowling.

The fourth and last mouse fell near some debris and the snake did not find it until it had searched for some time. It took $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes for the mouse's tail to disappear and another half a minute for it to reach the snake's stomach (judging from the disappearing bulge). On this and other occasions it was noticed that after swallowing the mouse the snake would open its mouth widely and gulp.

When next seen the snake was lethargic and only moved slowly when pebbles were dropped near it. During the following two weeks the snake was not seen, despite my visiting the tank every few days. It was discovered on March 28 that the snake had sloughed its old skin and was moving about as lively as ever. It was then shot and measured (total length, $38\frac{1}{2}$ in.).

The specimen is now registered in the Western Australian Museum as R. 26522.

—A. L. MILHINCH, Seabrook.

Two Names of Western Australian Plants, one New and one Evaluated but Discarded.—During our work in the Rijksherbarium at Leiden, Holland, on the flora of the Malesian area, comprising the islands between the Asian and Australian continents, we are seldom faced with research on Western Australian plant species, except in odd cases. One of these is *Albizia lophantha* Bth. which appears conspecific with *Albizia montana* Miq., a beautiful, short-lived tree of the montane zone of Java and the Lesser Sunda Is.

On the generic level botanical "similarity" is of course more frequent, but on the whole also here there is a distinct cleavage between the dry subtropical-temperate Western Australian flora and the humid tropical Malesian flora. Naturally, the South Malesian borderlands, which are subject to a seasonal monsoon climate, that is the major part of Java, the Lesser Sunda Is., the South Moluccas, and the extreme southern lowlands of New Guinea, harbour some stray representatives of genera which are otherwise almost confined to the Australian continent. I may mention here for example: *Ptilotus*, *Pimelea*, *Stylidium*, *Velleia*, *Goodenia*, *Calogyne*, *Leschenaultia*, *Citriobates*, *Banksia*, *Cartonema*, *Hibbertia*, *Haemodorum*, *Gompholobium*, *Kennedyia*, *Paterersonia*, *Tricoryne*, *Caladenia*, *Diuris*, *Microtis*, *Pterostylus*, *Thelymitra*, *Flindersia*, *Stackhousia*, etc. Such genera are often more typically Eastern Australian than Western Australian.

Recently, however, in two cases our work affected the specific identity of Western Australian species. As their evaluation was published in non-Australian journals, it may be worthwhile to extract the evidence here.

The first is a species of *Euthales* R.Br., a genus reduced to *Velleia*, viz. *Euthales filiformis* De Vriese, described in Lehmann, "Plant. Preissianae", 1: 414. 1845, collected in Western Australia: "in solo sublimoso fertili prope praedium rusticum Dom. Marell,

York, d. 30 m. Martii 1840. Herb. Preiss No. 1889". Bentham, in "Fl. Austral.", 1: 162, supposed it to belong to some other genus, but gave no alternative; "Ind. Kew." reduced it, curiously, to *Velleia trinervis* (R.Br.) Labill.; Krause in his monograph on Goodeniaceae did not evaluate it, and Gardner omitted the name from his "Enumeratio" (1931).

Mr. J. H. Kern has now examined the holotype, preserved at Leiden; it appeared to him (*Blumea*, 13, 1956: 116) to represent a Caryophyllaceous plant, widely spread in temperate Australia, originally described as *Drymaria filiformis* Bth., now referred to *Stellaria*, as *St. filiformis* (Bth.) Mattf. (in Fedde, *Repert. Beih.*, 100, 1938: 148). As Bentham used the same specific epithet as De Vriese, that of the latter cannot be employed, though older than Bentham's to which *Euthales filiformis* De Vriese now falls as a synonym.

The second species, also occurring in Western Australia, was described as *Astragalus pterostylis* DC. (DC. *Prod.* 2, 1825: 294), unfortunately without citing the native country and collector. Later, Decaisne, in his account of the Timor flora, recorded it from that island, and this was perpetuated by Miquel, in his "Flora Indiae Batavae". This record was highly suspicious as the genus *Astragalus*, though one of the greatest in the world, is absent from Malesia and Australia. It has appeared that the holotype material is not at Geneva, but in the Paris Herbarium. There were four sheets of which three bear the locality "îles des amiraux", which are presumably the islets situated in Admiralty Bay, NW. Australia. One of the sheets, which all form together obviously one collection, bears the locality "Timor". The latter locality can be discarded as early French collections contain many erroneous localisations from Timor (see "Flora Males.", I, 1: XVIII-XIX, XXIV).

As to the identity of *Astragalus pterostylis* DC. it appeared that it is the same species as *Swainsona occidentalis* F.v.M., under which name it still figured of course in the monograph of this genus by A. T. Lee (*Contr. N.S.W. Nat. Herb.*, 1, 1948: 215). Unfortunately this name cannot be maintained, and the correct name is *Swainsona pterostylis* (DC.) Bakh. f. (Steenis, C.G.G.J. van & R.C. Bakhuizen van den Brink, in *Bot. Jahrb.*, 86, 1967: 394-396).

—C. G. G. J. VAN STEENIS, Rijksherbarium, Leiden, Holland.

Is the Tasmanian Tiger (*Thylacinus*) Extinct on the Australian Mainland?—An account of the recent discovery of a remarkably well-preserved carcass of the Tasmanian Tiger (*Thylacinus*) in a cave near Eucla, Western Australia, has been published by the finders, D. C. Lowry and J. W. J. Lowry in *Helictite*, 5 (2), January 1967: 25-29. The discovery of these comparatively recent remains prompts me to place on record my sight observation in 1949 in New South Wales.

At the time I prepared short notes about this observation and forwarded them to Mr. Charles Barrett, but as far as I know, they were never published. In 1965, upon request, I gave this information to Dr. E. H. M. Ealey, of Monash University.

During the C.S.I.R.O. Entomological Expedition, November 1949, I had the fortune of seeing the animal on the route from Bourke to Wanaaring, in an uninhabited area a few miles past Warrego River, where I was collecting on the right hand side of the road, only a few yards from the road. It was 11 a.m., and I observed the animal for 1-2 minutes from a distance of about 15-20 metres; it ran along the sand which was covered with some very small bushes, the rest of the area being sandy. I saw the